

Mr. Michael Powell,
Chairman, FCC

I find your actions towards easing restrictions on media cross-ownership quite outrageous. Any reasonable person can see that allowing one company to own a majority of media in one metropolitan area (which is what will likely happen if these restrictions are abandoned) is profoundly anti-democratic and monopolistic. Regulations on media concentration were wisely created to prevent such practices.

I've lived in cities that have suffered under joint operating agreements, another sham "reform" dreamed up by profit hungry free-market types, and the result is lesser quality newspapers with narrower viewpoints, and ultimately, one major daily paper instead of several.

Allowing one company to own multiple media outlets in a given area will have the same result. It is only by having a panopoly of media viewpoints that we as a nation can remain well informed about issues that directly concern us.

I would urge you to DO YOUR JOB, and enforce laws that are already in effect. The News Corp. is currently in violation of the cross-ownership ban not once, but twice now, and as a public servant who is answerable to the American people, it is up to you to make sure that all companies follow US law, even if you disagree with it.

If you would like to review FCC policies or regulations, that is your right, but remember that it is our right as citizens to ask for your removal if your actions prove that you do not have the best interests of the American people and a healthy media at heart.

I for one would not want to live in a country whose media is controlled by the Rupert Murdochs and Conrad Blacks of the world, and will do everything I can to make sure that day never comes.

Sincerely,

David Balluff